

# N.C. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX UP 10 POINTS

The "All Farm Products" index of prices received by North Carolina farmers at local markets increased 10 points during the month ended September 15, 1954. The September index of 298 compares with an index of 310 a year earlier and an index of 308 on September 15, 1952.

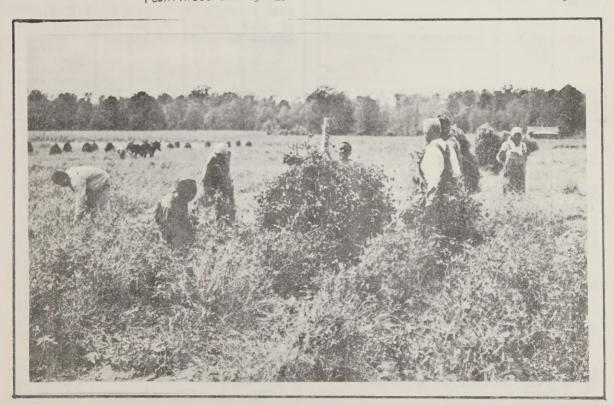
The "All Crops" index increased 15 points during the month due to higher to-bacco, cotton, cottonseed and fruit prices. The big increase in the "All Crops" index

(Continued on Page 2)

# U. S. PRICES RECEIVED DOWN 2 PERCENT

A decline in hog prices during the month ended September 15, together with lower prices for commercial vegetables, eggs, potatoes, soybeans, and chickens, was responsible for a two percent (5 points) decline in the Index of Prices Received by Farmers. Higher prices for milk, apples, cotton, cattle, tobacco, and wheat were only partially offsetting. The mid-September index, at 246 percent of its 1910-14 base, compares with 251 a month ear-

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Tar Heel peanut growers are busy digging another excellent crop in the Commercial Coastal Counties.

#### U. S. PRICES (Continued)

Lower prices for goods bought for rural living reduced the Parity Index (Prices Paid for Commodities, Interest, Taxes, and Wage Rates) nearly 1 percent during the month ended September 15 with food prices leading the decline. These downturns were partially offset by a slight increase in prices paid for production goods bought by farmers. At 280, however, the Parity Index was about 1 percent higher than a year ago.

With the Parity Index off less than the Index of Prices Received for farm products, the Parity Ratio dropped back to 88 this month, the same as in June and July. The September ratio was about 5 percent

lower than a year ago.

#### N. C. PRICES (Continued)

was off-set to some extent by a 2 percent drop in the livestock and livestock products index. Lower hog and chicken prices caused this drop in the livestock index.

#### CASH FARM INCOME OF TAR HEEL FARMERS DOWN IN 1953

Tar Heel farmers received a total of \$903,950,000 from the sale of all crops, livestock, and livestock products in 1953. This is 31 million dollars or 3.3 percent percent less than 1952 and 50 million dollars or 5.3 percent less than 1951.

North Carolina ranked fourth among the States of the Nation in cash receipts from sales of all field crops in both 1953 and 1952. The Tar Heel State ranked twenty-second in dollar volume of cash receipts from sales of livestock and livestock products in 1953 and also 1952. The State ranked twelfth in 1953 and thirteenth in in 1952 in total cash receipts from the sale of all commodities.

Receipts from sales of crops accounted for \$683,885,000 or 75.7 percent of the total cash receipts in 1953. As usual, tobacco led all crops in value of sales in 1953, accounting for \$456,942,000 or 50.6 percent of the cash receipts from all commodities sold and for two-thirds of the cash receipts from the sale of all crops. Cotton and cottonseed combined was the second most important crop in terms of cash receipts, accounting for \$92,947,000 or 10.3 percent of the total cash farm income in 1953.

#### NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS

INDEX	Aug. 15 1954	Sept. 15 1954	Sept. 15 1953	Sept. 15 1952	Sept. 15 1951
		NORTH CA	ROLINA INDE.	X NUMBERS	
All Farm Products	288 301 368 281 314 181 247 256 240 288 223 223 102	298 316 391 293 315 183 244 269 235 270 217 230 106	310 323 409 277 290 180 263 263 265 308 263 232 112	308 316 368 330 333 202 367 246 280 312 282 250 108	300 305 377 285 318 175 222 210 283 344 282 235
		UNITED S	TATES INDEX	NUMBERS	
Prices Received	251	246	257	288	291
Wage Rates	282 89	280 88	277 93	286 101	283 103

<sup>\*</sup> Ratio of N. C. Prices Received for All Farm Products to U. S. Prices Paid.

#### PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

		N	U.S.	
COMMODITY	UNIT	Aug. 15 1954	SEPT. 15 1954	SEPT. 15 1954
			DOLLARS	-
TOBACCO 1/2/ CORN WHEAT OATS BARLEY BARLEY SORGHUM GRAINS SOYBEANS PEANUTS COTTON COTTONSED WOOL HOGS BEEF CATTLE VEAL CALVES LAMBS MILK COWS CHICKENS.ALL COM'L BROILERS TURKEYS EGGS MILK.WHLSE 3/. RETAIL 6/ BUTTERFAT SWEETPOTATOES. APPLES.COM'L LESPEDEZA SEED KOREAN KOBE COM. & TENN SERICEA HAY, ALL BALED ALFALFA HAY LESPEDEZA HAY SOYBEAN AND	LB. BU. BU. BU. BU. BU. CWT. CWT. CWT. CWT. CWT. CWT. CWT. CWT	.538 1.73 1.93 .79 1.13 2.05 2.55 2.90 .120 .340 55.00 .550 21.80 10.90 16.00 4.50 17.50 95.00 .241 .250 .300 .445 5.10 .217 .510 1.75 3.10 1.75 3	.538 1.72 1.98 .88 1.25 2.10 2.40 2.60 .120 .355 62.00 .550 20.20 10.90 15.30 5.00 18.00 94.00 .227 .235 .300 .445 5.35 5/ .217 .510 1.80 2.85 1.90 19.60 19.60 19.00 24.00 24.00 24.00 24.00 24.00 35.00	.530 1.53 2.07 .711 1.05 1.25 2.16 2.51 .114 .3455 61.60 .528 19.70 16.10 15.80 5.30 17.80 145.00 .192 .233 .275 .338 4.10 .558 1.16 2.36 3.02 19.60 22.00 22.70 29.90
COWPEA HAY PEANUT V'NE OTHER	TON TON TON	31.00 21.00 34.00	32,50 20,50 34,50	31.60

1/ Types - 12-13 N. C.
2/ Types - 11-37 U. S.
3/ Estimated average prices for the month for all milk sold at wholesale to plants and dealers.
4/ Revised.
5/ Preliminary.
6/ Sold by farmers direct to consumers.
7/ The all hay price is the weighted average of separate kinds including an allowance for minor kinds.

#### CASH FARM INCOME (Continued)

The relative importance of tobacco to the State's economy is shown by the fact that income from tobacco in 1953 was almost five times the income from cotton and cottonseed.

Cash receipts from sales of peanuts ranked third in importance among the field crops in 1953. Cash receipts from the sale of peanuts amounted to \$34,463,000 or 3.8 percent of cash income from all commodities sold.

#### NORTH CAROLINA CASH RECEIPTS FROM FARM MARKETINGS

COMMODITY	1952	1953
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	REVISED	PRELIM.
	(000)	(000)
	DOLLARS	DOLLARS
CASH RECEIPTS FROM: DAIRY PRODUCTS	52,172 44,424 41,959 38,971 15,949 6,218 3,214 202,907	56,209 48,657 44,571 44,721 17,613 5,475 2,819 220,065
FIELD CROPS: TOBACCO	457,633 113,483 33,283 14,575 15,827 4,525 11,155 8,649 11,486 2,976 2,378 2,665 660 11,517 2/8,213	456,942 84,214 34,463 8,733 11,347 4,989 10,059 5,658 8,714 2,907 3,224 3,607 762 11,989 2/7,032
FRUIT & TREE CROPS: PEACHES	2,570 4,551 1,312 863	1,923 2,063 1,178 867
OTHER PRODUCTS: FOREST GREENHOUSE & NURSERY ALL CROPS.4	16,449 7,451 732,221	15,659 7,555 683,885
ALL COMMODITIES SOLD	935,128	903,950
GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS	6,790	3,926
ALL COMMODITIES & GOV°T PAYMENTS	941,918	907,876
VALUE OF PRODUCTS CONSUMED ON FARMS WHERE PRODUCED CROPSLIVESTOCK	139,036 48,784 90,252	137,208 46,598 90,610

<sup>1/</sup> Commodities included in 1951 not comparable with 1952 and 1953.

Receipts from the sale of livestock and livestock products amounted to \$220,065,000 in 1953. This is an increase of \$17,-158,000 or 8.5 percent above 1952.

<sup>2/</sup> Includes all other field crops as well as green lima beans, beets, cabbage and green peas.

#### AUGUST HATCHERY REPORT

The August chick production in North Carolina's commercial hatcheries is placed at 6,419,000 chicks -- a new record for that month. The August figure is 55 percent above the 4,147,000 hatched during August 1953 and 127 percent above the 1948-52 average of 2,825,000 chicks. On September 1, 1954 the average price received by the State's hatcherymen for straight-run heavy and heavy cross-breed chicks was \$14.00 per hundred and for straight-run light breeds was \$15.00 per hundred.

The number of chicks produced by commercial hatcheries in the United States during August was 10 Percent above last year and the largest of record for the month. Production totaled 99,961,000 chicks, compared with 91,014,000 during August last year, the previous record high, and the 1948-52 average of 68,541,000 chicks. Production during the first eight months of this year totaled 1,515,300,000 compared with 1,414,124,000 during the same months last year -- an increase of 7 percent. Practically all of the chicks

produced in August were for commercial broiler production. The demand for chicks for broiler production is strong and a relatively large September hatch is in prospect as the number of eggs in incubators on September 1 was 12 percent larger than a year earlier.

#### POULT OPERATIONS

The number of heavy breed poults hatched in the United States during August totaled 85,000 compared with 123,000 in August last year. Hatchings of heavy breed poults are now approaching the low point for the year. Only 50,000 heavy breed turkey eggs were reported in incubators September 1. Light breed poults hatched during August totaled 1,311,000 compared with 1,103,000 in August last year, an increase of 19 percent.

#### THE U.S. TOBACCO SUMMARY

When marketing quotas are in effect on flue-cured tobacco, price support at 90 percent of parity is mandatory. The Government price support for the 1954 crop is 47.9 cents per pound -- the same as for the 1953 crop. This is the level announced last April.

In June of this year, the law was amended to change the penalty on the marketing of tobacco in excess of a farm's marketing quota. Beginning with the 1955 crop of flue-cured, the penalty rate will be calculated at 50 percent of the average market price (calculated to the nearest whole cent) for the immediately preceding

marketing year. The law previously had specified 40 percent of the previous year's market price.

The 1954 auction market prices for all types of flue-cured combined through September 20 averaged 51.1 cents per pound -- 6.8 percent lower than the 54.8 cents in the comparable period of 1953. Average prices for many individual grades have been lower than in 1953 in all belts.

Auction market volumes and prices in the 5 belts through September 20, 1954 and those for the same number of days (except type 14) in the 1953 season are as follows:

	1953	1954	1953	1954
,	Mil. Lb.	Mil. 1b.	Cts. per 1b.	Cts. per 1b.
GaFla., type 14 (entire season)	193	188	51. 1	46.4
S. C. and Border N. C., type 13	276	224	56.5	52.6
Eastern N. C., type 12	263	198	56.4	53. 2
Middle Belt, type 11 (b)	30	33	53.6	53.7
Old Belt, type 11 (a)	17	16	51.7	55.4

#### U. S. COMMODITY HIGHLIGHTS

Prices of hogs will tend to be somewhat lower seasonally until about late October. They will be below last year but generally at or above a normal relation to the price of corn. Prices of grass cattle also are expected to decline seasonally, but will likely continue as high as or higher than last year because of a generally strong demand for feeder cattle.

### DAIRY PRODUCTS OUTPUT UP FOR N. C.

Creamery butter production for North Carolina during 1953 was 43 percent above the previous year. Likewise, the production of other dairy products was up considerably.

Ice cream production increased about 2,147,000 gallons during 1953 -- this was about 18 percent above the 1952 production.

Other increases for dairy product output were as follows: Cottage cheese curd 5 percent, creamed cottage cheese 3 percent, and ice milk 4 percent.

Prices for fed cattle may remain comparatively stable. Output of milk in August was slightly under that of a year earlier, the first time in 24 months.

Large production of eggs for this time of year and seasonally increasing supplies of poultry meat are holding down prices for these commodities.

Cash corn prices continued to advance during August and early September, and prices of other feed grains strengthened from low points reached in July. Cash wheat prices have advanced gradually and currently are near the highest levels of the season to date.

A 1954 cotton crop of 11.7 million running bales was forecast, down 28 percent from the 1953 crop. Wool prices in Australia in the first half of September were down substantially from prices which prevailed at the close of auctions last June and from a year earlier. Auction prices for flue-cured tobacco through September 17 averaged lower in all belts except the Middle and Old belts of North Carolina and Virginia, where drought was a serious factor last year.

#### MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS:

Production by Specified Items and Selected States, 1953

		Total	Cottage	Creamed	Evaporated	Total	
State And Division	Creamery	American	Cheese	Cottage	Whole Milk	Ice	Ice Mill
	Butter	Cheese	Curd	Cheese	Case Goods	Cream	
	1,000	1.000	1,000	1.000	1,000	1.000	1.000
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Gallons	Gallons
District of Columbia	-	- '	2, 219	3,072	- 19	5,954	15
Delaware	-	-	99	33	-	2,018	-
laryland	3, 132	-	5, 252	6,565	-	9,858	-
/irginia	8,700	-	2,517	1,054	-	10,927	
West Virginia	941	-	3,008	3, 402	-	5,380	982
Worth Carolina	1,813	-	1,766	2,097	-	14, 278	2,975
South Carolina	156	-	130	94	-	2,708	700
Georgia	737	557	856	754	-	7,509	1, 239
Florida	-	-	2, 301	2,483	-	12,083	1,707
South Atlantic	1/15, 486	1/ 3, 289	18, 148	19,554	1/190, 267	70,715	7,618
United States	1, 411, 814	1,021,492	406,714	495, 736	2,553,751	602, 724	63,745

<sup>1/</sup> Includes production for some States not shown separately.

#### THE U.S. LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION

The high rate of cattle slaughter so far this year indicates that the cattle inventory next January 1 will fall a little below a year earlier. Large marketings since early summer are partly a result of dry weather in many areas. Although total cattle numbers will probably be down slightly next January 1, the number of cows will probably be about as large as last January. Beef production may no longer be increasing, but it will remain large.

Cattle feeders who bought feeder cattle last fall and sold them in the spring and summer made larger profits than usual. Following this experience, feeders appear to be more confident this fall than last.

#### N. C. FEED PRICES GENERALLY LOWER

Prices paid by North Carolina farmers for most feed items declined slightly during the month ended September 15, 1954.

Average prices paid by farmers for all mixed dairy feeds declined 5 cents per hundred from the previous month.

All the high protein feeds, except cottonseed meal were costing farmers slightly less than a month earlier. Cottonseed meal at \$4.15 per hundred was the same as the previous month.

All the poultry feed prices averaged a few cents per hundred below the August 15 prices. See the accompanying tables for these prices and the local market feed-price ratios.

### LOCAL MARKET POULTRY FEED-PRICE RATIOS

	N. C.			S.
POULTRY FEED PRICE RATIO //	Aug. 1954	Sept. 1954	Aug. 1954	Sept. 1954
Egg-Feed (Laying mash) Farm Chicken Feed 2/Broiler-Feed (Broiler Mash). Turkey Feed 2/	10. 2 4. 3 4. 5 6. 9	10.3 4.4 4.4 6.9	9.6 4.3 4.6 7.1	8.7 3.9 4.4 7.1

I/ Pounds of feed equal in value to ! dozen eggs, I pound farm chickens, I pound broilers and I pound turkeys. 2/ Poultry Ration.

They are paying approximately the same prices for feeders as last fall even though prices of fed cattle are a little lower. Since the reduced corn crop may tend to hold down cattle feeding and hog production, prices of fed cattle next spring and and summer are likely to be almost the same as this year. Profits in feeding will probably average somewhat less than the past year but considerably larger than the low returns in 1952-53. Feeders in areas having feed available will be in much more favorable position than those in dry areas where feed is short and higher in price.

Since mid-July more hogs have been slaughtered than last year. A rapid seasonal increase in slaughter is expected until mid-October, after which the rate will generally be more nearly level. Slaughter for the entire season will be up from last year in proportion to the 13 percent increase in spring pigs saved. Hog prices will trend seasonally downward and will continue considerably below the rather high prices of last fall.

#### FEED PRICES PAID BY FARMERS

	N.	. C.	U.	. S.
FEED PER	Aug.	Sept.	Aug.	
HUNDREDWEIGHT	15 1954	15 1954	15 1954	15 1954
		- DOL	LARS-	
Mixed Dairy Feed Under 29% Protein				
All	3.90 4.10 4.35 4.35	4.05 3.85 4.05 4.30 4.30 4.95	3.93 3.84 3.90 4.20 4.38 5.10	3.82 3.88 4.17
Linseed Meal Soybean Meal Cottonseed Meal Meat Scrap	4. 15	5.50 4.15 5.80	4.65 5.80 4.51 6.52	5.52 4.45
Grain By-Products Bran. Middlings. Corn Meal. Corn Gluten Poultry Feed	3.85	3.55 3.75 4.65	3. 04 3. 23 3. 87 3. 75	3. 18
Laying Mash Scratch Grain Broiler Growing		5.20 4.50	4.96 4.32	
MashPoultry Ration	5.50 4.37	5. 40 4. 33	5.39 3.90	

If Average of prices paid for commercial feeds and prices received for grain.

#### COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER REMAINS AT RECORD LEVEL

The total commercial slaughter of cattle, calves, sheep and lambs, and hogs in North Carolina during August amounted to 22,528,000 pounds (liveweight basis). This is the highest of record for any August since records began in 1947 and compares with the previous high of 20,914,000 pounds slaughtered during August of last year. Aiding in establishing the record for total slaughter during the month was cattle slaughter which reached 10,477,000 pounds liveweight -- the highest August kill of record for the species. Calf slaughter during the month at 1,153,000 pounds was short of the all-time record but was the highest for August since 1948. The total liveweight of hogs killed for compurposes reached 10.887,000 pounds during August, second only to the record-high 11,148,000 pounds slaughtered during August 1952.

Production of red meat in commercial slaughter plants in the United States totaled 1,931 million pounds during August. This was 3 percent more than the 1,878 pounds produced in July this year and 8 percent more than the 1,786 million pounds in August last year.

August cattle slaughter totaled 2,206,-000 head, 1 percent above July and 9 percent above August last year. Beef production totaled 1,080 million pounds, just slightly above a month earlier and 7 percent more than a year ago.

The number of calves slaughtered in August was 1,109,800. This was 4 percent more than the 1,066,300 slaughtered in July and 9 percent more than the 1,018,700 head slaughtered in August 1953. Veal production totaled 149 million pounds, 4 percent above a month earlier and 5 percent above a year earlier.

Pork production in August totaled 642 million pounds. This was 8 percent more than in July this year and 10 percent more than in August last year. The number of hogs slaughtered was estimated at 4,733,-100 head, 15 percent more than a month ago and 11 percent more than a year ago. Lard production was 148 million pounds, 1 percent below a month earlier, but 17 percent above a year ago.

The number of sheep and lambs slaughtered during August totaled 1,366,500 just 2,000 head less than in July, but 4 percent more than in August 1953. Mutton and lamb production was 60 million pounds, 2 percent more than a month earlier and 9 percent more than a year earlier.

#### NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER\*

		Aug	ust		Jan	Aug.	To	tal	
SPECIES	.,	Number Total Slaughtered Liveweight				Number Slaughtered		Total Liveweight	
	1953	1954	1953	1954	1953	1954	1953	1954	
N. C.	Thous	Head	Thous	Lbs.	Thous	Head	Thous	Lbs.	
Cattle Calves Sheep &	12. 4 5. 3	13.8 6.2	9,722 1,020	10, 477 1, 153	75.5 34.3	93.3 43.2	59, 283 5, 999	72, 126 7, 604	
Lambs Hogs	0.3 51.0	0.1 52.0	10, 150	10,887	1. 1 471. 0	0.8 429.0	97,957	92,074	
TOTAL	69.0	72.1	20,914	22,528	581.9	566.3	163,340	171,878	
U. S.	Mil.	. Head Mil. Lbs. Mil. Head		Mil. Lbs.		Head	Mil.	Lbs.	
Cattle Calves Sheep &	2. 0 1. 0	2. 2	1,848 255	1,987 272	14.7 7.2	16.3 8.1	13,908 1,577	15, 124 1, 783	
Lambs Hogs	1.3 4.3	1.4 4.7	118 1,001	126 1, 112	10.0 42.6	10.4 38.5	959 10,112	994 9,382	
TOTAL	8.6	9.4	3, 222	3,497	74.5	73.3	26,556	27, 283	

<sup>\*</sup> Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other wholesale and retail slaughter; excludes farm slaughter.

### FARM REPORT

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## COMPARISON OF PRICES RECEIVED BY U. S. FARMERS AND PARITY PRICES

COMMODITY	PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS		COMPAR	PARITY OR COMPARABLE PRICES 4/		PRICES ENTAGE RITY
	Aug. 15 1954	Sept. 15 1954	Aug. 15 1954	Sept. 15 1954	Aug. 15 1954	Sept. 15 1954
	DOLLARS	DOLLARS	DOLLARS	DOLLARS	PERCENT	PERCENT
Cotton, Lb	.3400 2.03 1.53 .675 1.01 1.08 15.90 21.60 18.50 .215 .374 3.89	. 3455 2. 07 1. 53 . 711 1. 05 1. 25 16. 10 19. 70 17. 80 . 192 . 338 4. 10	. 3509 2.50 1.82 .877 1.36 1.71 21.20 20.70 23.00 .299 .468 4.74 3/	. 3484 2. 48 1. 80 . 871 1. 36 1. 69 21. 00 20. 60 22. 80 . 297 . 465 4. 70	97 81 84 77 74 63 75 104 80 72 75	99 83 85 82 77 74 77 96 78 65 64 44 85

<sup>[]</sup> Effective parity prices as computed currently in months indicated using base
period prices and indexes then in effect.

<sup>2/</sup> Estimated average price for month for all milk sold at wholesale to plants and dealers.

<sup>3/</sup> Preliminary.

<sup>4/</sup> Percentage of seasonally adjusted prices to parity prices